

THE TALON

OPERATION JOINT GUARD, BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA



SERVING THE SOLDIERS OF TASK FORCE EAGLE



Bridge over troubled waters

Staff Sgt. Darryl C. Ford, Bradley Fighting Vehicle commander, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, observes traffic during guard duty at the south end of Brcko bridge.

Photo by Spc. David Boe

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By Spc. David Boe
364th MPAD

BRCKO, Bosnia-Herzegovina -- Pvt. Keith Ragsdale has a lot to carry on his shoulders lately.

Armed only with a squad assault weapon, and protected by a sandbag wall and some concertina wire, the Caseyville, Ill. native stands guard at the entrance of a bridge whose existence is guaranteed by the White House, NATO and the United Nations. A lot of important people to answer to, but

Ragsdale takes it in stride.

"I love it," said Ragsdale, an infantryman with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry. "I'd rather be part of something important."

And Brcko Bridge is important. The blue, 800-foot structure is one of only three bridges that span the Sava River from Bosnia-Herzegovina to the outside world. Crossing from the north bank, the bridge leads into Brcko, a city that seems

See BRIDGE page 12

Stupid Sports Quotes

"I know the Virginia players are smart because you need a 1500 SAT to get in. I have to drop bread crumbs to get our players to and from class"

-- George Raveling, Washington State basketball coach

"You guys pair up in groups of three, then line up in a circle"

-- Bill Peterson, a Florida State football coach

"You guys line up alphabetically by height"

-- Bill Peterson, a Florida State football coach

"I play football. I'm not trying to be a professor. The tests don't seem to make sense to me, measuring your brain on stuff I haven't been through in school."

-- Clemson recruit Ray Forsythe, who was ineligible as a freshman because of academic requirements

"Why would anyone expect him to come out smarter? He went to prison for three years, not Princeton."

-- Boxing promoter Dan Duva on Mike Tyson hooking up again with promoter Don King

"That's so when I forget how to spell my name, I can still find my #%#@# clothes."

-- Stu Grimson, Chicago Blackhawks left wing, explaining why he keeps a color photo of himself above his locker

"I can't really remember the names of the clubs that we went to."

-- Shaquille O'Neal on whether he had visited the Parthenon during his visit to Greece

"I'm going to graduate on time, no matter how long it takes."

-- Senior basketball player at the University of Pittsburgh

"Nobody in football should be called a genius. A genius is a guy like Norman Einstein."

-- Football commentator and former player Joe Theismann

UP FRONT -- THE REAL ENEMY

The real enemy is not a secret. In this environment and with a peace enforcement mission, the real enemy is YOU. If you allow yourself to become complacent, that threat is real, it is contagious and it is deadly.

The best way to combat the enemy are the simple basic soldiering and combat skills learned in basic training, supported by a solid set of values.

This means being able to take care of yourself and/or influence others. The buddy system is a great way to do this. I want all soldiers to work under this system and have a Task Force Eagle buddy.

Peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace enforcement. Many argue that these types of missions require the formation and development of new tasks. My experiences in Somalia and Haiti, have convinced me it is not new tasks, but the execution of several basic soldiering and combat skills. Furthermore, the scope and responsibility of the sol-



dier and junior leader associated with each task becomes more important.

It is very important that whatever we do, we do it right the first time to the established standard. I am asking all of you to do this. We need to start doing all the easy

tasks better. From uniform appearance, to boot care, tent living, driving, cleaning windshields, clearing weapons, weapons and vehicle maintenance, we must all do what is right, not what is convenient and certainly not what is easy.

We will do all the big things well, and in some cases, extremely well. However, it is the little things that will carry us over the top, making us a cut above the rest. Attention to detail is the name of the game. That is my focus; to do as many little things as well as we can. Junior leaders, I am holding you personally responsible and accountable. See you Up Front!

Command Sgt. Maj. S.L. Kaminski
1st Infantry Division (Forward)

Safety

What is the most important responsibility of a leader? Taking care of soldiers. Our business as noncommissioned officers is training the soldier to standard. The current environment demands well-trained soldiers who can function as a cohesive team. This is accomplished by ensuring that soldiers and leaders do their jobs correctly and safely.

Lately there have been a rash of convoy accidents, and the causes are usually the same -- driving too fast, following to close and inattention or failure to stay alert. Prior to convoy operations, it is important to have a thorough safety briefing. At a minimum, cover:

- Responsibilities of the vehicle commander
- Convoy speeds and road conditions
- Safety belt use
- Unexpected narrow points, intersections along the route and unlighted tunnels
- Proper distance between vehicles during convoy movement
- Pedestrians on the shoulder of the road
- Local national driving
- Expect the unexpected

By Sgt. 1st Class D. L. Matthews -- "Safety Through Knowledge"

THE TALON

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Read and pass along -- a Talon is a terrible thing to waste

What goes up...

Spc. Paul Hougdahl
129 MPAD

CAMP COLT -- What goes up, must come down. We have all heard this saying, but for Stabilization Force troops in Bosnia-Herzegovina, it is a saying that can take on a whole new meaning. In fact, it can be a matter of life and death.

Through periodic weapon storage site inspections, warehouses full of mortars, rockets and artillery rounds have been documented by SFOR soldiers. These munitions could be launched on targets at any time without warning.

The members of the 139th Field Artillery Target Acquisition Battery, an Indiana National Guard unit based in Indianapolis, are on duty in Bosnia-Herzegovina for exactly that reason. Twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, they search the air of northern Bosnia-Herzegovina with their fire finder radar systems looking for any rounds which may cause harm to SFOR troops or which may indicate the former warring factions have decided to do battle once again.

"It is a big force protection thing. The Army puts a high priority on it. No matter where they fire them (rounds) from, we can pick them up," said Staff Sgt. Gary Knapp, radar section chief. "Our unit motto is, 'Before the round hits the ground', which means that while the round is in the air, we can determine where the round was fired from and where it is going to hit."

Last December, the 139th FA TAB radar section replaced a regular Army radar unit at Camp Colt and have shown their ability to perform their duties as well as overcome obstacles.

"Because we are required to be operational all the time, maintenance has been a challenge," said Spc. Christopher Daniels,

radar operator. "We are up most of the time -- we have been very fortunate. We place a lot of emphasis on overall battery maintenance."

The 139th FA TAB uses powerful radar antennas that pick up objects in the area they are scanning. This data is fed into a computer which analyzes it using criteria such as speed, trajectory and size. If the object matches characteristics of a round, the data is sent to the unit's target processing section located at Eagle Base near Tuzla and SFOR officials can then determine what course of action will be taken.

Another capability of the 139th FA TAB is to direct fire for friendly forces. They can track an artillery round, tell exactly where it landed and relay the data back to the firing battery so the next round fired will be directly on target.

"It is amazing how quick and accurate these radar systems are. We get very close to the exact spot consistently," said Knapp. "The radar systems also have the capability to direct fire onto a target from a great distance away."

Sgt. Carl Tinsley, a senior radar operator said that his section has tracked hundreds of targets since arriving at Camp Colt. Most targets are interference, aircraft or celebratory small arms fire.

"The regular Army soldiers say we are really professional -- most even thought we were (regular Army too)," said Tinsley. "Of course I can't wait to get home, but it's been a neat mission."

Knapp said he is very pleased with his section at Camp Colt. He said that they are very professional and have really come together as a team. "They have come here from all walks of life and taken over from the regular Army and have done a great job," said Knapp.



Spc. Christopher Daniels,
a 139th Field Artillery
Target Acquisition Battery
radar operator at Camp
Colt, records data.

Photo by Spc. Paul Hougdahl

NEWS BRIEFS

Stay off airfield

Jogging is not permitted within the confines of the airfield at Tuzla Main. This includes the runway, all taxiways, grass areas between the taxiways and grass areas surrounding the airfield. The only area near the airfield where jogging is allowed is the road leading to the west gate.

People jogging on this road are restricted from entering the east-to-west parallel taxiway where helicopters are parked.

Anyone who jogs near the perimeter of the base should exercise caution so as not to enter any area of the airfield.

Air Force Security Police will stop anyone jogging within the airfield confines.

Rodents

To keep little critters out of living areas, soldiers should keep all food items out of tents and sleeping areas. Keep areas neat and clean. If rodents are found, soldiers should call the field sanitation team.

All areas near garbage dumpsters should also be kept clean, and make sure waste disposal containers close properly.

Do you mine?

With the influx of new soldiers into Bosnia-Herzegovina and the mission becoming routine, soldiers are cautioned not to forget the threat of mines.

"There are about 750,000 to one million mines in Bosnia-Herzegovina," said 1st Lt. Kevin Pettet, Mine Action Center. "In the U.S. area of operation, there are over eight thousand minefields."

Pettet said the most important thing for soldiers to remember is not to leave marked routes. "Stay on the approved roads and sidewalks. That's where you walk. You don't walk on the grass or through fields."

Soldiers are warned that there are still mines in base camps. "The mines in areas where soldiers live or work have been cleared," Pettet said. "However, you must treat base camps as though you were outside and be aware that the mine threat exists."

"If you see a mine, figure out where you are, mark the place where the mine is and notify the division engineers. Remember, if you didn't drop it, don't pick it up," he added.



Something
in
the
air

2nd Lt. Dereck L. Irminger, 24, takes out the filter of the PM-10 particulate collector.

Photo by Spc. David Boe

By Spc. David Boe
364th MPAD

MCGOVERN BASE -- Something is in the air.

Is it love? Tension? Sleeping bag fumes? Or just particulates from vinyl chloride?

Whatever it is, it's up to 2nd Lt. Dereck L. Irminger to find it.

Irminger, 24, an environmental engineer from the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine, Direct Support Activity West out of U.S. Army Garrison Fitzsimons, Aurora, Colo., is on temporary assignment to McGovern Base. His mission: conduct several consecutive days of air sampling.

"We're looking for is what is in the air that our soldiers are breathing," said the Smithville, Mo., native. "Anything that's in the air."

To help him in his endeavors, Irminger uses three machines which sample different-sized particulates and compounds in the air.

The TO-1 is the smallest of the machines, measuring no larger than a VHS videotape. It's a modified EPA Toxic Organic Ambient Air Monitoring Method using Supelco Corbosieve 300 sampling tubes which collect compounds from vinyl chlo-

ride to naphthalene.

Sound confusing? Basically what it does, said Irminger, is look for toxic material, such as fumes from gasolines, solvents and paint thinners. "That kind of stuff," he said. The TO-1 operates over an eight-hour period, twice a week,

The Total Suspended Particulates is a little larger, and looks like one of those plastic kitchen trash cans with the swinging doors. It doesn't collect garbage, though; it collects particulates over a 24-hour period using filters, which are pre-weighed and weighed again after sampling.

The PM-10 is the largest machine, looking not unlike some metallic unmanned Martian surveyor. It collects particulates in the air that are 10 microns or smaller.

After the surveys are complete, Irminger said, all material is sent to the Center for Health Promotion and Preventive Medicine Headquarters at Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Md. There, the material is analyzed, and any results are sent back to the individual camp commanders. If there are air quality problems at a particular camp, Aberdeen can make recommendations, such as using face covers when driving, or repositioning fuel containers. But, he said, the camp commanders have sole authority

to implement changes.

Four teams are conducting tests in Bosnia-Herzegovina, said Irminger, one each at four different base camps. The tests, he said, are similar to the ones conducted last year over a six-month period.

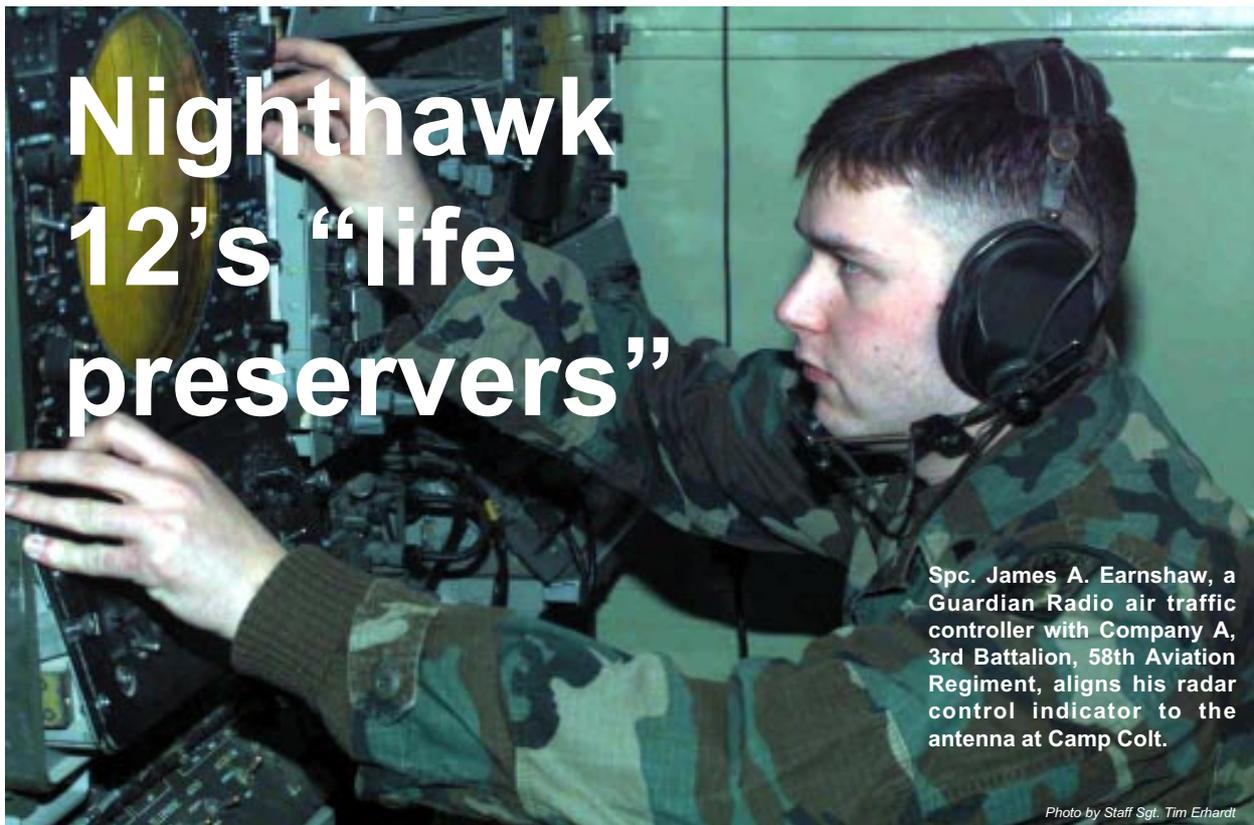
Irminger said the air tests are just one part of an overall medical surveillance program the military is conducting to find out what soldiers are eating, drinking and breathing.

"We want to know what our troops are exposed to," said Irminger.

This is the first time Irminger has been deployed overseas since coming into the U.S. Army in May. His normal duty area covers a 22-state region west of the Mississippi River.

While he has at least one machine working 24-hours-a-day, the actual process of collecting the particulate samples isn't a nine-to-five job. Because of this, said Irminger, he spends time helping the base's aid station with preventive medicine problems, and, on occasion, goes out with a patrol into Brcko. The latter, he said, has helped him understand the mission being performed in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"This is very different," said Irminger. "It's been very interesting, very informative."



Spc. James A. Earnshaw, a Guardian Radio air traffic controller with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment, aligns his radar control indicator to the antenna at Camp Colt.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Tim Erhardt

By Staff Sgt. Tim Erhardt
129th MPAD

CAMP COLT -- Nighthawk 12 was in trouble. "Guardian Radio, we're experiencing severe flight control malfunctions," reported the pilot.

Spc. James A. Earnshaw, an air traffic controller with Company A, 3rd Battalion, 58th Aviation Regiment, knew exactly what to do. Earnshaw was working at the flight following console at 10 minutes past 10 p.m., April 8, when the emergency call came from the UH-60 Black Hawk. Nighthawk 12 had just departed McGovern Base enroute to Tuzla.

"I collected all the pertinent information I needed before the aircraft landed," said Earnshaw. "The pilot, the number of personnel on board, his call sign, tail number, the nature of the emergency and his intentions."

The pilot said that he was making an emergency landing four miles west of Brcko in an unsecured area of northern Bosnia-Herzegovina. The terrain there is basically flat and visibility was unobstructed. Including the crew, he had 10 personnel on board, one of which was Brig. Gen.

J. Mark Curran. The pilot landed the aircraft safely with no injuries and no major damage.

The "life preservers," Guardian Radio of Camp Colt, were there. Although providing flight service to six other aircraft at the time, Earnshaw "kept his cool." He immediately became a contact and distribution point for information.

Knowing Nighthawk 12 is a member of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, Earnshaw contacted the unit's Tactical Operations Center at Tuzla West. Next he informed the Air Safety Liaison Office in Tuzla Main of the situation. Earnshaw knew that two OH-58s from the same unit were in the vicinity. He asked them to provide area security from the air. Earnshaw then called

McGovern Base and requested that a military police element dispatch and secure the area on the ground.

"The aircraft had landed and because they were 'below my line of sight' they were unable to talk to me by radio," said Earnshaw. "So I relayed messages to them through the OH-58s in the air."

Earnshaw recorded information and acted as a central point of contact for all the agencies involved. "We had at least four different agencies communicating with each other, so it was very important to pay close attention," said Earnshaw. "The cooperation from the crews of the OH-58s really helped me out a lot."

Two Black Hawks from the 2nd Bn., 1st Avn. Reg. soon were at the scene. One took the general out of the area, the other flew in a maintenance team. By 1 a.m. Nighthawk 12 was back in the air, and after a maintenance check at McGovern Base, the aircraft flew on to Tuzla.

Earnshaw said that their training emphasizes handling emergency situations. "That training is embedded in my head. It allows me to act quickly, efficiently and to remain calm," said Earnshaw. "Since pilots report to us as they fly, we're the first ones to know when something goes wrong. We know how to

get the help there."

Sgt. Andrew B. Lecuyer, facility chief of the 58th Avn. Reg.'s Camp Colt air traffic control site, was on duty when the emergency landing was reported.

"Handling an emergency like this is similar to CPR training. When you actually have to use it, you'd be surprised how much of it you remember. All our operations have been safe. Safety awareness is constantly instilled in all our soldiers," said Lecuyer. "We preach air safety."

This provides comfort for pilots crossing Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia -- knowing the air traffic controllers of Guardian Radio are listening making sure a life preserver is ready at Camp Colt.

"Handling an emergency like this is similar to CPR training. When you actually have to use it, you'd be surprised how much of it you remember."

— *Sgt. Andrew B. Lecuyer*

Quick Reaction Force

Photos and story by Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

CAMP DOBOL -- Four combat-loaded, 70-ton monsters roll out the gate. An imposing display of strength, they have the power to control any crisis. This is the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) of Task Force 1-41, flexing their muscles of might.

The mission could be hostile and is always potentially dangerous. The objective is to move an armored force as quickly as possible to respond to an emergency. And the operation begins with the TF 1-41 battle captain.

Capt. Orson Ward is responsible for activating the QRF and briefing the platoon leader of the commander's intent. A live game of chess, he needs to track all the moving pieces on the ground. "We can put a QRF team into our area of responsibility 24 hours a day in almost any situation, safely and accurately," Ward said.

The M1A1 Abrams tanks of Company A maneuver down the narrow and fractured roads of Bosnia-Herzegovina. With expertise, they weave between zooming cars and horse-drawn hay wagons. This particular drill consists of blocking off an intersection to prevent detected, unauthorized military movement by a former warring faction toward base camp.

Another scenario played out includes the Tuzla Air Base. Imagine a plane low on fuel, desperately needing to land but unable because of an accident at the airfield. The tank QRF would secure a strip of road, allowing the plane to land.

Riots can also be controlled by an imposing sign of military presence. 2nd Lt. Damian C. Marquith, Co. A, 1st Battalion, 13th Armor, TF 1-41, explains that "the QRF rehearsals keep us on our toes. We are the first defense for Camp Dobol and our area of responsibility."

QRFs roll out of Camp Dobol regularly. Lt. Col. Robert Rush, TF 1-41 commander, has made it clear that force protection is a top priority. Wherever TF 1-41 soldiers may be, on patrol in a village or manning a checkpoint, the QRF will be there as back up.

Also as a force protection exercise, a direct fire attack was simulated recently on base. The entire task force secured their designated battlestations, quickly and efficiently.

Staff Sgt. Dean Frazier, Co. A., 3rd Plt., 4th tank commander, covers the flanks and rear of the column of tanks in motion. "We are prepared for the worst case scenario," he said. "We focus on one day and one mission at a time."

The platoon is made up of four crews, each of which has a tank commander, loader, gunner and driver. Pvt. Shawn Sinnott, 4th tank loader, has only been in the Army for eight months. "Practice makes perfect," he said. "If something happens and they need us fast, we will be there. My job is to perform preventive maintenance checks and services, prepare my station in the tank, load rounds and ensure the radio is operational. When the hatch is open, I also scan to our rear with the M240 (automatic rifle) ready."

Spc. Daniel Hill is a driver with Co. A, 3rd Plt., 2nd tank crew. "We prepared for this deployment by lots of training on the tank trails at Fort Riley, Kan. As a quick reaction force, we know we can do the job." Hill is a native of Oakcliff, Texas.

The tankers never know when they will be called up, so all parts must be in perfect working order. They are. "Our soldiers are highly disciplined and motivated," said Marquith. "In every QRF we have performed, we have always managed to hit our objective in the minimal amount of time."



From top, clockwise: A platoon of Abrams tanks during a quick reaction force drill. The Armor Company commander is on the ground. Background: A tank crew member looking down the road.



Top, clockwise, Spc. Steven M. Mazur, gunner for 2nd crew, 3rd platoon, Company A, Task Force 1-41, inside his M1A1 Abrams tank during a quick reaction force exercise near Camp Dabol...Soldiers of armor platoon dismantle ammo and weapon systems on their tanks after the QRF exercise...Staff Sgt. Dean Frazier, tank commander with Armor Platoon, Task Force 1-41, prepares to go out on the quick reaction force exercise recently at Camp Dabol...Background, The M1A1 Abrams tanks from the TF 1-41 QRF rolling down the road.



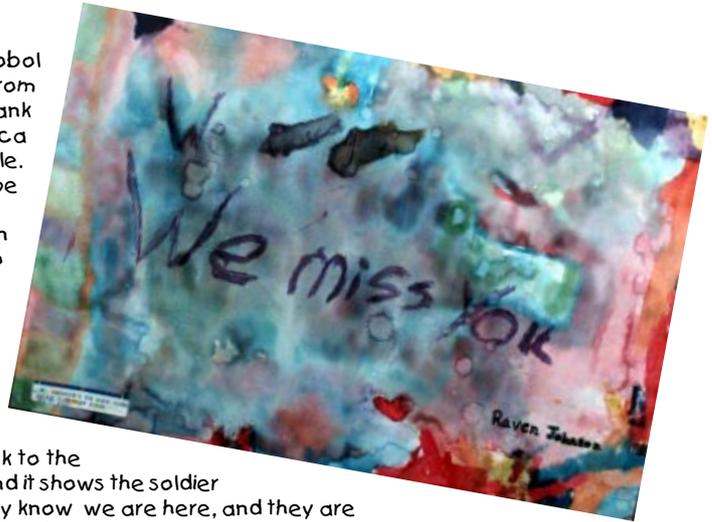
Dear any soldier...

By Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

CAMP DOBOL -- A sergeant from Camp Dobol recently received this greeting in the mail from a 9th grade student. "Dear Any Soldier, Thank you for fighting in the war. You make America proud. Help all those crazy and hungry people. While I'm home, you'll be fighting to live. I hope you don't die. Dustin Barr."

The situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina can be confusing and full of misconceptions to the people back home. But by writing back to students, soldiers can explain that Americans are not actually at war, but are keeping the peace.

"The 'Dear Any Soldier' is a very good public relations program for the Army," said Spc. Yaropolk A. Rohowsky, 101st Military Intelligence Battalion. "By writing back to the people, it puts a human face on soldiers. And it shows the soldier that someone out there cares. At least they know we are here, and they are

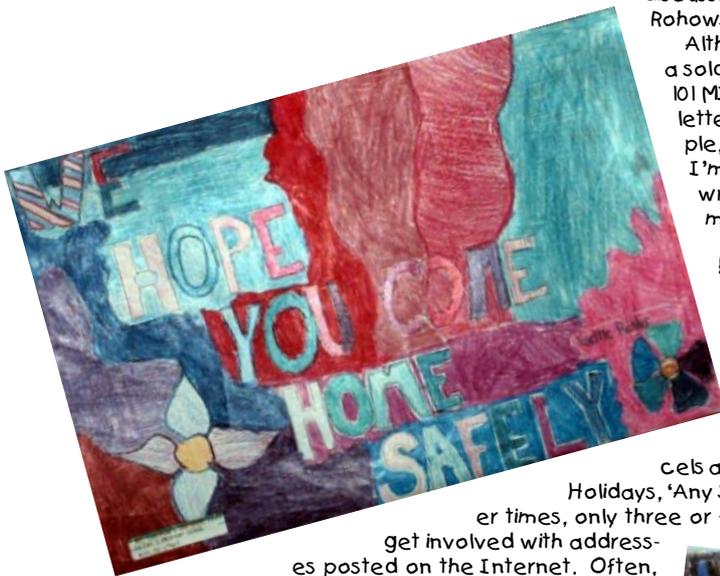


discussing current events with their teachers." Rohowsky, 28, is a native of Mount Prospect Ill.

Although letters are intended to cheer up a soldier far from home, Sgt. Jerry D. White, 101 MI Bn., attached to TF 1-41, recalls some letters leaving a different effect. For example, "Dear Soldier, My name is Angela and I'm 11 years old. Please excuse my handwriting but I've been in a coma for six months and my hand works a little funny."

"I think it is good for soldiers to write back, not just take the candy that is sent. The people took their time and energy to write to us, so we should at least write back to say thank you," said Rohowsky.

Any Soldier' mail arrives at Tuzla Main, then is divided among the base camps. From there, the parcels are divided between companies. During Holidays, 'Any Soldier' mail comes in big bundles, other times, only three or four letters may arrive. Schools often



get involved with addresses posted on the Internet. Often, family members or friends or soldiers connected to various church or civic groups get the letters rolling in.

Greetings from the States, of course, are not just limited to kids. "I personally received a letter from an 81-year-old woman," said Rohowsky. "The most letters came at Christmas time. For Valentines Day, I received handmade cards with cut out hearts and lots of candy kisses."

"Do you have big Army boots?" "Are there any groundhogs in Bosnia?" "How many people have you killed?" "Do you get to eat strawberries?" "Little minds with big questions need to know."



Soldiers team up on Black Hawks

By Sgt. Steven Collins
129th MPAD

EAGLE BASE -- All vehicles need maintenance. That is a reality that requires the Army to employ thousands of mechanics in every theater of operation.

Vehicles, such as the UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter, require constant maintenance. Complex \$6 million machines, Black Hawks need experienced and capable crews of mechanics and technicians to keep flying. At Eagle Base, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment maintains a fleet of Black Hawks, a tough task made easy by competent and motivated soldiers.

"The guys here have a great attitude," said Capt. Patrick Boyer, Co. D commander. "The noncommissioned officers have been doing this for years, probably longer than I've been in the Army. The young guys have developed a sense of teamwork and get the job done."

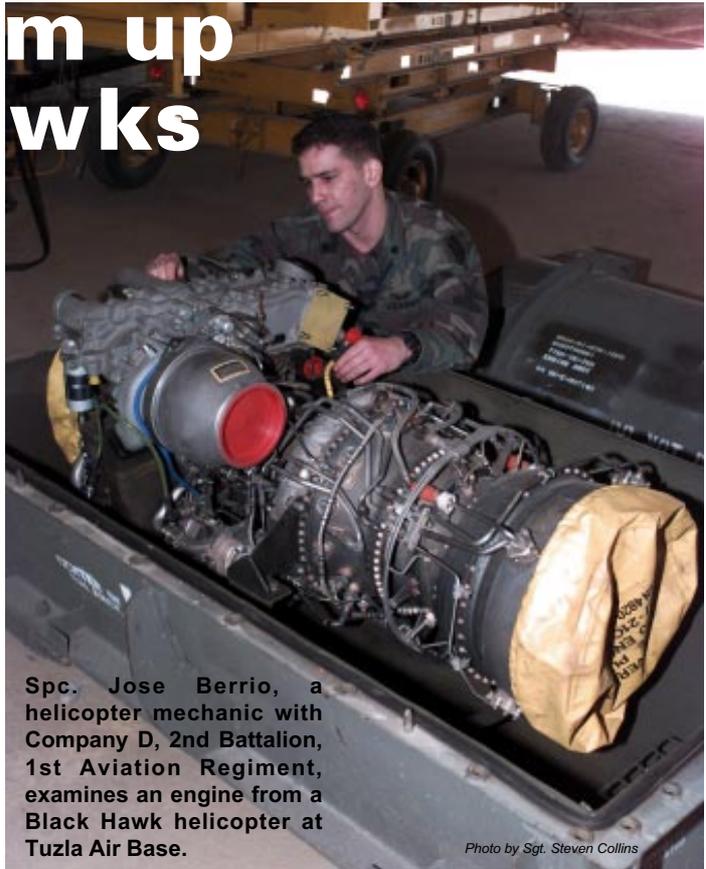
Co. D handles the maintenance for all of the Black Hawks of the 2nd Bn., 1st Avn. Reg. One-third of Co.D has been deployed to Operation Joint Guard, one-third of the soldiers remain in Germany, while the other third of the company is supporting operations in Macedonia.

"But there is nothing we can do at home that we can't do here," said Boyer, of Westport, Conn.

The company at Eagle Base performs all levels of maintenance for the Black Hawks, from scheduled maintenance to unscheduled repairs. In a large "clamshell" tent on the flight line, mechanics and technicians perform all types of engine and body repairs to keep the Black Hawks as good as new.

"Maintenance on a Black Hawk is like maintenance on any other vehicle," said Chief Warrant Officer Armand C. Brasseur, company production control officer of Irasburg, Vt. "We change engines, check the oil and the transmission, do preventative maintenance checks."

However, the mechanical complexity of the Black Hawk re-



Spc. Jose Berrio, a helicopter mechanic with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, examines an engine from a Black Hawk helicopter at Tuzla Air Base.

Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins

quires a level of expertise not found in all maintenance companies. For example, when a Black Hawk recently experienced engine trouble, the crew of Co. D had to replace the engine. The engine, which costs almost \$600,000, took several hours to replace. Then it had to be tested to ensure it provided enough power to turn the rotors and lift the helicopter off the ground.

Black Hawk maintenance is not limited to mechanics and technicians. Pilots and crew chiefs keep a constant watch on the aircraft — before, during and after flight. Any problems are reported to Boyer and Brasseur, who determine how the problem will be addressed. Two civilian technicians work closely with Co. D soldiers to keep the Black Hawks airborne.

"The job is a lot of hours. It takes a lot of time and discipline," said Sgt. Mario Valdez, a Black Hawk crew chief from West Covina, Calif. "But as long as you're working hard as a team you get the job done."

Deploying downrange has provided the soldiers of Co. D with invaluable training, since there are no distracters to the job of maintaining helicopters.

"They (the soldiers) fare better down here than they do in garrison because there are less distractions," said Brasseur. "They work full-time on maintenance. We have better response time with the people we have down here because they're doing what they're trained to do."

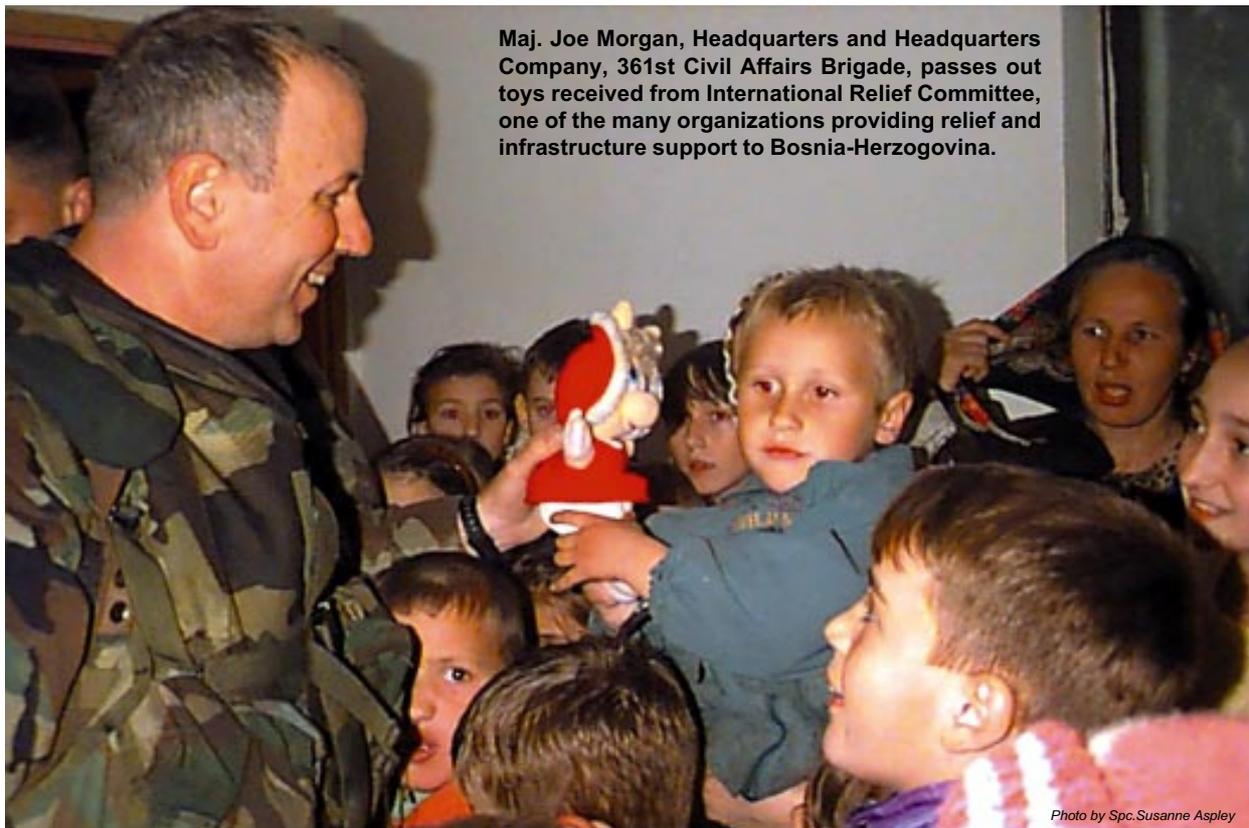
The Black Hawks of 2nd Bn, 1st Avn. Reg. have completed many crucial missions in Bosnia-Herzegovina, including escorting high-ranking officials from base to base. Recently, the Black Hawks were called on to fly the secretary of defense on his trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"But the actual day-to-day readiness doesn't vary whether we're flying the secretary of defense or a load of privates," said Boyer. "The airplanes always have to be at the same level of readiness and that's what we strive for."



Spc. Paul Smith, a helicopter mechanic for Company D, 2nd Battalion, 1st Aviation Regiment, conducts a pre-flight inspection of the tail rotor on a Black Hawk helicopter.

Photo by Sgt. Steven Collins



Maj. Joe Morgan, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 361st Civil Affairs Brigade, passes out toys received from International Relief Committee, one of the many organizations providing relief and infrastructure support to Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Photo by Spc. Susanne Aspley

Factions' financial fare furthered

By Spc. Susanne Aspley
364th MPAD

CAMP DOBOL -- Securing a strong economic anchor in Bosnia-Herzegovina is a vital mission of the Stabilization Force. This involves providing resources and support for small business owners, local farmers and displaced persons. In order to provide this channel between communities and donor agencies, Camp Dobol recently hosted a Non-Governmental Organization / International Organization Fair.

"Our desired outcome of this meeting is to find the best fit between projects and programs to international donor agencies," said Maj. Joe Morgan, Task Force 1-41 civil affairs team leader. "This event creates the perfect environment for providing all people working in this area an opportunity to network. The current levels of aid are decreasing to near zero in one year, so this is a very critical time. We want the country's infrastructure to be able to take care of itself in both the private and public sector."

The keynote speaker, Douglas Mercado from the World Food Program, set the

tone for the meeting. He presented the schedule showing food aid being reduced throughout 1997. Other agencies continued the theme of changing their aid programs this year from emergency aid to developmental programs.

"I feel both sides need to put aside their differences and work together to better the local economy," said Sgt. Brendan Stone,

"The current levels of aid are decreasing to near zero in one year, so this is a very critical time. We want to get the country's infrastructure to be able to take care of itself in both the private and public sector."

— Maj. Joe Morgan

CA specialist with the 413th CA Bn. based in Lubbock, Texas. "The former warring factions relied on each other before the war, and now that there is peace, they should be able to rely on each other again."

Discussions were animated and productive. According to Morgan, Dzevad Tosunbegovic, the mayor of Kalesija said, "It

seemed like everyone got something out of the meeting." This comment was echoed by many others in attendance.

"The purpose of this meeting is to provide local town and SFOR civil affairs representatives accurate, up-to-date information on each organization, their focus and intent of funding for calendar year 1997. The meeting was very successful," said Morgan. "Over eight donor organizations came to share with others what their organizations do and what their plans are for 1997."

Representatives from nine different municipalities from both the Republic of Srbska and the Federation attended. Additionally, Joint Commission Observers and Civil Affairs teams from Camp Bedrock and Demi were present.

Currently there are 323 Civil Affairs reservists serving in Bosnia-Herzegovina supporting Operation Joint Guard.

Task Force 1-41 will host another NGO / IO conference tentatively scheduled for May. It will be an open format so that all representatives and interested parties can obtain specific information about their areas of interest and needs.

What do you know?

Is there someone in the unit that thinks they know everything? Of course there is -- every unit has one. Give them this quiz, then watch them start to sweat.

- 1) What U.S. company spent the most money on advertising in 1995?
- 2) What television series topped the annual ratings the most times, according to Nielsen Media Research?
- 3) What were the names of the castaways on Gilligan's Island?
- 4) What North American country celebrates its Independence Day on Sept. 16?
- 5) Which state is known as the Granite State?
- 6) What are the ingredients of V8?
- 7) How large an area does the principality of Monaco cover?
- 8) What was the first video played on MTV?
- 9) Who was the first U.S. woman pilot?
- 10) What country has the world's highest life expectancy?
- 11) What are the 13 original American Colonies?
- 12) What state is known as the Coyote State?
- 13) Apis, Isis and Ra can be found in which mythology?
- 14) A gift of an emerald is most appropriate on which wedding anniversaries?
- 15) Which two countries had larger populations than the United States in 1996?
- 16) What is the approximate population of Vatican City?



1) Procter & Gamble (\$1.507 billion), 2) All in the Family (five), 3) Gilligan, the skipper (Jonas Grumby), The millionaire and his wife (Thurston Howell III, Lovey Howell), The movie star (Ginger Grant, and the rest (Professor Roy Hinkley, Mary Ann Summers), 4) Mexico 5) New Hampshire, 6) A tasty beverage, V8 has the juices of tomato, spinach, celery, beetroot, carrot, parsley, watercress, and lettuce. 7) 73 square miles (465 acres), 8) "Video Killed the Radio Star" by the Buggles. The next nine were: PAT BENATAR You Better Run, ROD STEWART She Won't Dance With Me, THE WHO You Better You Bet, PHD Little Susie's On The Up, CLIFF RICHARD We Don't Talk Anymore, THE PRETENDERS Bass In Pocket, TODD RUNGREN Time Heals, REO SPEEDWAGON Take It On The Run and STYX Rockin' The Paradise 9) Harriet Quimby (Ticket No. 37, 1911) 10) Japan (79.7 years), 11) Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut 12) South Dakota, 13) Egypt, India (952,107,694) 16) 830

TURTLES IN THE BOX Featuring Muddy and Dusty By Capt. Peter J. Buotte



BRIDGE

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to symbolize the effort on the part of the international community to bring peace to the war-torn land. It is Ragsdale's mission to ensure that effort succeeds.

"I think we're helping out a lot because we're taking over control of the bridge," said Ragsdale. We're just another point in the plan and keeping all the operations flowing real smooth."

Stewardship of the Brcko Bridge is under the responsibility of Ragsdale's unit, the Delta "Dogs of War" of Task Force 1-77, recently deployed to Bosnia-Herzegovina to replace the outgoing Task Force 1-18. While it has several different missions within its sector, Task Force 1-77's main effort is securing Brcko Bridge, said Capt. Kevin D. Hendricks, commander, Co. D.

"The purpose is to ensure a secure environment and maintain critical lines of communication for follow-on missions," said Hendricks. The 30-year-old commander said his company is also responsible for three weapon storage sites -- two in the city and one outside. But the main priority, he said, is the bridge.

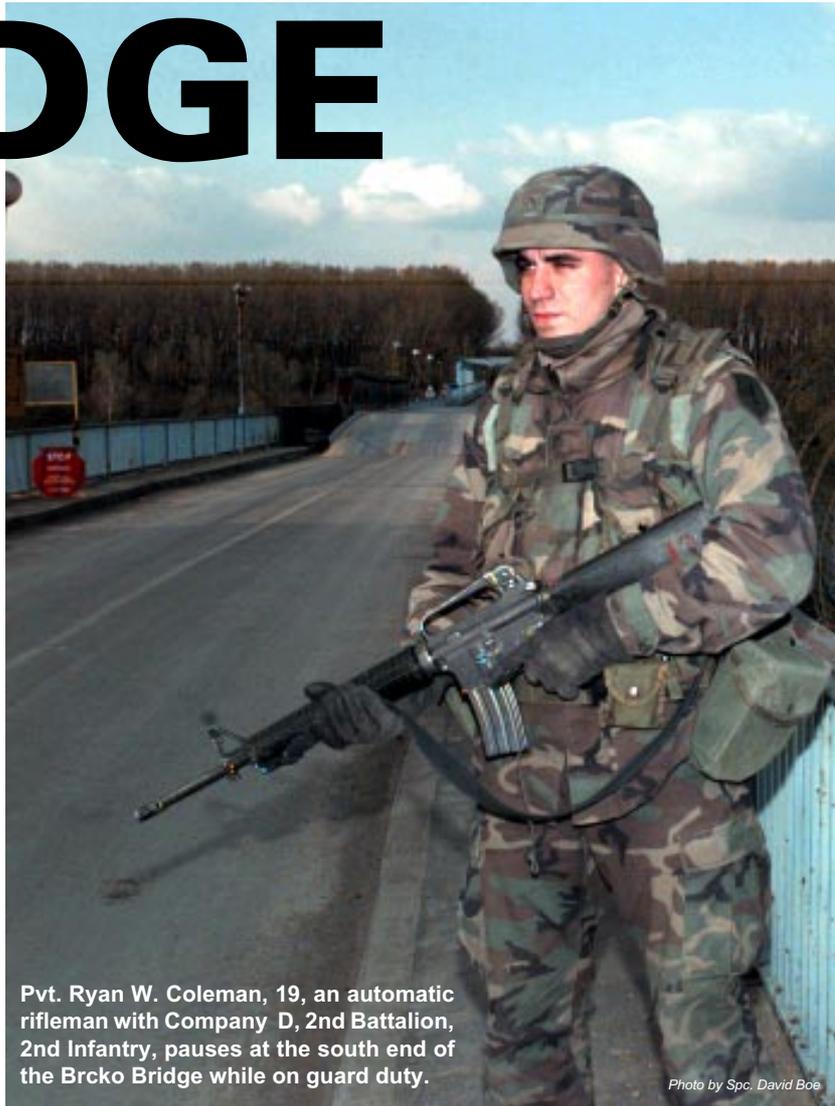
Despite the transfer of authority at Brcko Bridge and the recent arrival of Deputy High Representative Robert Farrand as UN supervisor to the controversial city, it is business as usual at the Sava River. Staring out from behind sandbags and wire, the Delta Dogs keep constant vigil on both ends of the bridge, strictly enforcing the SFOR-only travel restrictions. At the south entrance, an M2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle doubles as a mobile gate, periodically reversing to allow a vehicle through, then rumbling forward again to shut off the entrance. Across the street, Serb police help control the bustling traffic that ebbs and flows through Brcko's business district.

In contrast to the busy south side, the north entrance leads into the quiet Croatian town of Gunja, where the only sounds heard are an occasional automobile or rooster.

Busy or quiet, the Brcko Bridge is nevertheless a political symbol -- a fact that sometimes intrudes on Hendricks' military concerns. He said that in addition to securing the bridge, another implied task is knowing the local civic, police and military leaders, and working with them on a daily basis.

"I've always concentrated on the tactical aspects of fighting a war, and now at least half of my day is spent dealing with and talking with people in offices," said Hendricks. "I have to be careful about what I say, or do not say, and how I represent SFOR and the United States."

Hendricks said the instructions he receives from his commanders are explicit,



Pvt. Ryan W. Coleman, 19, an automatic rifleman with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry, pauses at the south end of the Brcko Bridge while on guard duty.

Photo by Spc. David Boe

yet flexible enough to allow him to do what is best when balancing the military and political concerns of his mission.

Hendricks said he tries to keep his soldiers concentrated on the military mission of securing the bridge. He said that since taking over the Brcko Bridge mission a few weeks ago, his men's performance has been excellent and have hit the ground running.

"They've done improvements on the bridge to increase force protection," said Hendricks. "They're the fresh eyes. They saw things that jumped out at them, and they made suggestions or improvements."

Hendricks said the 24-hour-a-day, seven-days-a-week importance of the bridge means his men put in a lot of hours -- and miles. "Those guys are walking six to seven miles a day on patrols, and they're out on the bridge for 12 hours," he said. "It's a long day for them."

One of Hendricks' soldiers, Staff Sgt. Shawn Alsup, 27, said he enjoys the responsibilities and opportunities that come with the mission. In addition to be-

ing a Bradley commander, Alsup also conducts daily patrols through Brcko itself. The Caldwell, Idaho, native said the patrols give the soldiers a chance to get out of the bunkers and into the streets, seeing the town and meeting the Bosnians face-to-face.

"So far it's interesting to see. This is the first time I've seen a lot of destruction like this," said Alsup. "It's pretty satisfying to know that you're helping the kids and the rest of the population try to maintain peace and rebuild their city."

However, Alsup said he always keeps the mission -- securing Brcko Bridge -- foremost on his agenda. "At our level we know it's one of the few links between Croatia and Bosnia," he said. "It's an important piece of the puzzle and for us down at this level we just do our job. We do what we're told and that's about it."

His commander agrees. "I try to focus on the missions I need to deal with," said Hendricks. "As long as I do what I've been told correctly and well, I know in the end my soldiers and myself will look good. I do what I need to do and do the best I can at it."